

CHILDREN & DISASTERS

NEWSLETTER



FEMA



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FROM THE FIELD

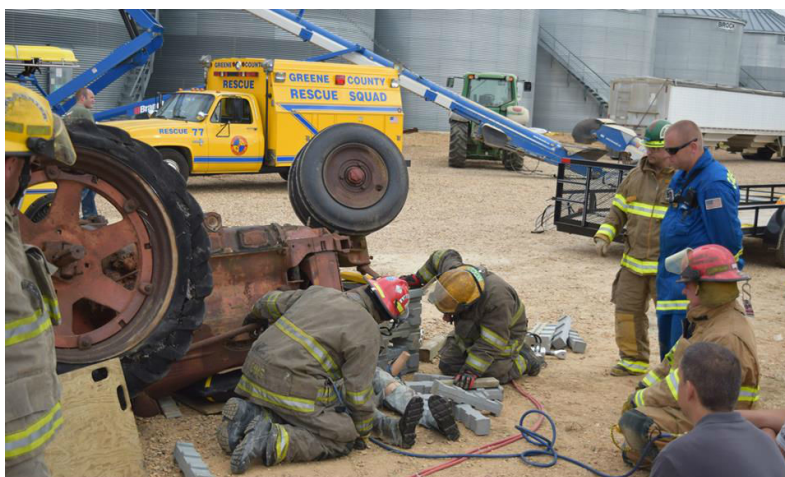
Universities Teach Students Readiness

In response to growing demand—driven in part by apocalypse-themed television shows and movies—schools across the Nation have started offering classes in disaster preparedness and emergency management.

For instance, in Maryland, Frostburg State University students learn survival tactics for hazards like chemical spills and winter storms.

Taught by Dr. Robert Kauffman, a professor of Recreation and Parks Management, a course entitled [Doomsday Preppers and Surviving the Unexpected Emergency](#) analyzes the psychological and physical effects of disasters. Kauffman's students learn to build and maintain an emergency kit, use communication tools such as National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association weather radios, and design an underground shelter suitable during a tornado as well as a nuclear blast.

At Arkansas State University, the [Regional Center for Disaster Preparedness Education](#) offers



The Arkansas State University Regional Center for Disaster Preparedness Education offers classes in disaster and community preparedness.

online and classroom-based courses, and training opportunities with professional emergency responders. Sessions focus on actions like responding to chemical and electrical emergencies, providing advanced disaster life support, and performing CPR.

In Florida, Nova Southeastern University's [Institute for Disaster and Emergency Preparedness](#) partners with state, national, and international agencies to provide all-hazards preparedness education and training for students and emergency management professionals.

For more colleges and universities offering emergency management and homeland security courses or programs, visit [FEMA's website for Higher Education](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Have Fun and Keep Your Community Safe

[America's PrepareAthon!](#), a community-based campaign to create a more resilient Nation, encourages all Americans to be prepared for man-made and natural disasters. The campaign invites youth and adults to organize PrepareAthon! events all year long, but especially for National PrepareAthon! Day, which occurs twice annually. This spring, National PrepareAthon! Day is Saturday, April 30.

Past activities include providing trainings on severe weather safety to organizations or community groups, painting house numbers, and creating emergency kits.

Visit the [America's PrepareAthon! website](#) to [read preparedness stories](#), [learn 10 Ways to Participate](#), [access customizable resources](#), and [register preparedness activities](#).



AMERICA'S
PrepareAthon!
BE SMART. TAKE PART. PREPARE.

Get Engaged with Public Service



Each year, people across the country unite to serve their communities during National Volunteer Week, which is slated for April 10–16, 2016. Launched by the internationally renowned Points of Light organization, the event aims to inspire creative and meaningful volunteer efforts.

If you would like to participate, you can access an [online toolkit](#) that includes suggestions for planning and organizing events. The toolkit also provides tips for highlighting your service via traditional media and online. For more information or to watch a video demonstrating the importance of empowering kids through service, visit the [Points of Light website](#).

Spur Youth to Action



Global Youth Service Day

For Global Youth Service Day (GYSD), April 15–17, 2016, [Youth Service America](#) (YSA) challenges youth in more than 135 countries to identify a cause they are passionate about—like disaster preparedness and response—and then plan a corresponding service project to improve their communities. GYSD is the world’s only event that celebrates the impact youth have on service.

YSA provides [free project resources and trainings](#) online. Once youth have scheduled their project, they can register on the GYSD map and download customizable GYSD logos to promote their engagement on social media. To learn more or get involved, visit [GYSD’s website](#).

RESOURCES

Stay Connected When Disasters Strike



The Technical Resources, Assistance Center, and Information Exchange (TRACIE) compiled [Family Reunification and Support Resources](#) to help health and medical providers understand their role in making sure families stay connected after disasters.

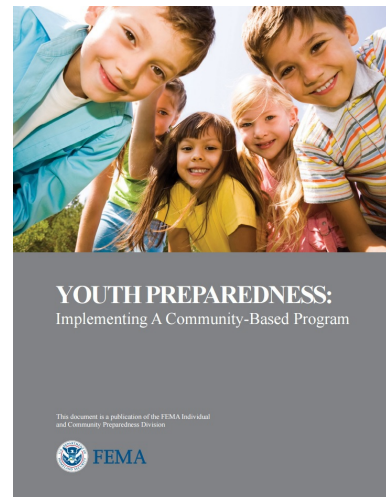
Resources include [Guidance Documents](#) that list state and local resources; [Lessons Learned and Case Studies](#) of past disasters, such as Hurricane Katrina; [Plans, Tools, and Templates](#) developed by health and medical professionals; [Trainings and Webinars](#) that identify various reunification systems and strategies for implementing them; and [Agencies and Organizations](#) that provide support resources.

Design a Program to Empower Youth

FEMA's [Youth Preparedness: Implementing A Community-Based Program](#) walks you through seven steps to reach youth so that they can be confident leaders during disasters.

Hard copies are available free of charge. Request your copy by sending an email to fema-youth-preparedness@fema.dhs.gov.

The document is also available online in [Spanish](#).



Study Severe Weather Safety

The [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#) and the [National Aeronautics and Space Administration](#) teamed up to create SciJinks, an interactive program that teaches middle and high school youth about weather, meteorology, and Earth science.

The program includes articles, weather-related stories, games for web and mobile, short videos, and downloadable activities. [Click here to check it out.](#)



Practice Personal Safety



Sponsored by the [National Center for Missing & Exploited Children](#) (NCMEC) and Honeywell, KidSmartz teaches families how to practice safe behaviors. The site is geared toward K–5th grade students and outlines [4 Rules of Personal Safety](#). Resources include printable activities, quizzes, articles, music, and videos. Visit the [KidSmartz website](#) to get started.

Also developed by NCMEC, [NetSmartz® Workshop](#) is an interactive, educational program about safe Internet usage for kids, tweens, teens, parents and guardians, educators, and law enforcement. The program includes videos, games, activity cards, and presentations to keep people engaged while they learn how to stay safe and protect their loved ones. To access this resource, go to the [NetSmartz Workshop website](#).



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Content

Disclaimer: The reader recognizes that the federal government provides links and informational data on various disaster preparedness resources and events and does not endorse any non-federal events, entities, organizations, services or products. Please let us know about other events and services related to youth preparedness that could be included in future newsletters by contacting FEMA-Youth-Preparedness@fema.dhs.gov.

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